

tin (*Riparia riparia*) as the common name for Bank Swallow. I was familiar with the use of Sand Martin, but the modifier was new to me. The resolution of taxonomic tangles, such as that of the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) complex, is outside the true purpose of this work; accordingly, the editors treat Yellow Wagtail as one species, but the taxonomy section provides a good description of recent DNA work on this complex.

As in all previous volumes of this series, the References section is split into two parts: References of Scientific Descriptions and the General List of References. The former lacks the titles of publications listed but does include scientific name(s), whereas the latter includes the titles of listed publications. I am uncertain why the two were not merged and one standard citation used, but because this is Volume 9, it is likely too late for questions. Regardless, this book is highly recommended.—MARY GUSTAFSON, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Mission, Texas; e-mail: mary.gustafson@tpwd.state.tx.us

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO MICHIGAN. By Allen T. Chartier and Jerry Ziarno. American Birding Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado. 2004: 660 pp., 284 maps, 6 photographs. ISBN: 1-878788-13-2. \$28.95 (paper).—In his Foreword to *A Birder's Guide to Michigan*, Allen Chartier and Jerry Ziarno's exhaustive guide to birding in the Great Lakes State, renowned bird-tour leader Jon Dunn describes his first trip to the state on a cross-country birding adventure. In June 1971, he and his four friends visited the jack-pine country near Mio to search for Kirtland's Warbler, which, as most birders know, breeds exclusively in the north-central Lower Peninsula (LP). After successfully seeing the warbler, he and his group left the following day for the eastern coast. Dunn's trip was typical of many birders' experiences with birding in Michigan—to see Kirtland's Warbler and leave a day or two later. With the publication of this book, however, more adventurous birders will decide to make Michigan the destination of longer trips to see its 31 other warbler species, as well as all the other species this unique northern state has to offer.

Four years in the making, this guide is by far the most thorough state-wide guide available for Michigan. The book includes 266 birding sites in 67 of the state's 83 counties, including all 15 counties located in the Upper Peninsula (UP). Indicative of the authors' knowledge of Michigan, they wrote or contributed to 166 of the site descriptions. Virtually all the site descriptions for the Southeastern LP section were authored exclusively by Chartier, and Ziarno wrote nearly all those included in the book for the Northeastern LP and UP sections. Forty-three other birders from across the state authored the remaining site descriptions. Also contributing their talents to this guide were the 24 birders who reviewed and checked the text and mileages, and another 12 that reviewed the bar graphs depicting each species' status in Michigan.

Visitors planning their first trip to Michigan will benefit from the introductory sections on topography, vegetation, bird habitats, and climate—now standard information included in all state birding guides recently published by the American Birding Association (ABA). A section entitled “The Michigan Birding Year” gives an overview of bird activity that one can expect in each month of a given season, supplementing the excellent status and occurrence bar graphs for Michigan's 303 annually occurring species and the list of casual and accidental bird species. In addition, the guide lists Michigan's mammals, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies, and orchids and other plant species referenced in the book, and it provides weather data for selected cities. The authors also discuss Michigan's few potential hazards to birders, from the prevalent (e.g., biting insects and weather) to the least likely (e.g., black bears, moose, and massasauga rattlesnakes). Finally, the book lists contact information for Michigan tourism councils, birding-related telephone hotlines, internet chat groups, websites, festivals, and parks and conservation organizations.

The birding site descriptions are organized into six regions of the state; Southeastern LP, Northeastern LP, Northwestern LP, Southwestern LP, Eastern UP, and Western UP. Preceding each of these sections is a map illustrating the region's major birding areas and the alpha-numerical identifiers used for bird-

ing sites in that area. For instance, the regional map of the Southeastern LP indicates that the “St. Clair Marshes” is birding area #10, for which sites SE67 to SE71 are listed. After paging to the site description for SE67, the user will find a more detailed map showing the locations of all five sites in the St. Clair Marshes area. For a given site, the authors have included seasonal ratings of the site’s birding quality, as well as the latitude/longitude reference and the page number and grid location where one would find that site in the Delorme Atlas. The directions for getting to site SE67—Metro Beach Metropark, one of the most popular migrant traps among Detroit-area birders—advise the reader that taking I-94 East actually entails traveling north from Detroit. This is one example of the detail and thought that went into the directions to all sites included in the book. The authors also advise visitors to call ahead for the park’s hours of operation, warns that the park is popular with non-birders, and that birders should check South Beach at Metro Beach first, before the non-birders arrive.

In another location at Metro Beach—Pt. Rosa Marsh—I was surprised to learn that as many as 500 Common Loons have been tallied in one day during spring migration. The text also mentions that the bushes behind the nature center are a reliable place to find the elusive Connecticut Warbler, and that the Meadow Area should be checked for Red-headed Woodpecker, Orchard Oriole, and Yellow-breasted Chat—all uncommon in Michigan. Rarities that have made appearances here, such as Magnificent Frigatebird, Great White Heron, and Heerman’s Gull, are mentioned as well.

Birding areas in the Northeast LP include groups of five to eight sites, each being close to a state highway or expressway; thus, each can be regarded as the equivalent of a “birding trail,” such as those promoted in Texas or Minnesota. Tawas Point—a park at the north end of Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron—is one of the state’s premier migrant traps and deserves at least one full day of birding. Mentioned by Jon Dunn as “indeed my favorite place to bird in all of North America,” Tawas Point truly measures up to such high praise. As one of the few extremely fortunate birders to have been with Dunn in May 1996 to see

the only White-collared Swift recorded in the Midwest, I can personally attest to the magic that can happen at Tawas Point. Now that the park’s greatness is no longer a secret, Ziarno’s description of this location and other nearby sites will make birding in the Tawas area obligatory for those also taking a Kirtland’s Warbler tour in the nearby Mio area. The site description mentions the park’s seasonal highlights, including Common Loons and diving ducks in the early spring and late fall, and nesting Piping Plovers, as well as all the best nearby places for observing up to 24 warbler species and many other passerines in a single day. It also suggests checking the pier behind the Holiday Inn for waterfowl and along Brownell Road near Tuttle Marsh to listen for Kirtland’s Warbler—locations of which I was unaware.

An even more famous birding destination in Michigan—Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (WPBO) in the Eastern UP—has nine pages devoted to it. Along with an enticing list of casual and accidental sightings from “the point,” the authors provide a thorough history of WPBO and what can be expected there on a seasonal basis. The site description also includes tables listing the site’s mean early, late, and peak dates of migration, as well as seasonal averages and minimum and maximum counts for spring and fall waterbird counts, spring raptor counts, and owl banding conducted at this intensively studied migrant hotspot. The last weekends of April and May, when experienced Michigan birders flock to the area, are recommended as especially good birding times for first-time visitors. Traditionally, Memorial Day weekend is considered the beginning of tourist season in the UP; thus, readers are rightly warned to check on the opening and closing times of restaurants in the nearby town of Paradise to avoid the possibility of going hungry. WPBO visitors also are cautioned that, “even in Mid-May, temperatures can be low enough to require winter clothes.” As one who has shivered through numerous early mornings of waterbird watching in the area, I would take this one step farther by suggesting that one bring along some winter clothing at any time of the year for birding along Lake Superior.

The Western UP, up to a 12-hour drive from Detroit, receives much less coverage from

birders than the Eastern UP; thus, Michigan's county listers, and anyone else with a sense of adventure, will appreciate the guide's inclusion of 33 sites west of Luce and Mackinac counties. One of the lesser-known birding sites listed is the Garden Peninsula, which projects south into Lake Michigan towards Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. On Garden Peninsula, the State Forest campground at Portage Bay is an excellent spot for both passerines and shorebirds in the fall; however, this is not mentioned in the site description, illustrating that there are many birding spots yet to be discovered in the UP, especially the western portion. I look forward to making another Labor Day weekend trip there soon, and I'll be sure that my itinerary includes two other places described for that area—the Mead Plantation and the Nahma Marsh Trail. With the Stonington Peninsula being so close to the Garden Peninsula, I'll have to visit there as well. The guide makes Peninsula Point Park sound like an excellent migrant trap and, considering how little old-growth forest is left in the state, the hemlock stand at Squaw Creek also sounds intriguing.

At 660 pages long, this is a very thick birding guide, and it can be difficult to make it lie open. The back cover, however, extends an additional 4.5 inches for use as a bookmark. Inside the back cover is a handy state map denoting the state's birding regions and selected birding sites. On the map, sites are labeled according to the page numbers where their descriptions are located. The facing page has a map key, which lists all the birding sites and their page numbers for each of the state's six regions.

I saw only a few errors in this guide. One pertained to a birding site near where I live in Genesee County (in the Southeastern LP); the site was mislabeled as being presented on page 42 and occurring in adjoining Livingston County. After checking the text, however, I found that there was no birding site in Livingston County, and page 42 actually describes the site labeled as occurring on page 43—Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area, located about thirty miles to the northwest of Livingston County. Clare County is misspelled on the state map on the inside back cover. I also noticed that there are two different area codes listed in the site description for Metro Beach

Metropark's phone number. Noted in the guide's introduction is a request to send any comments and corrections to ABA's website for use in future editions of the guide.

In conclusion, all Michigan birders, and anyone else planning a birding trip to that state, should own a copy of *A Birder's Guide to Michigan*. There is no other guide like it for the state, and its detail and completeness are impressive. Thanks to Chartier and Ziarno for providing such a useful tool to promote more complete birding coverage of Michigan and for giving out-of-state birders such a user-friendly guide for discovering all that Michigan has to offer.—JEFF A. BUECKING, Michigan Rare Birds Committee, 1225 Dauner Rd., Fenton, Michigan; e-mail: jbuecking@juno.com

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL. By Clive Barlow and Tim Wacher. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut. 2006: 400 pp., 48 color plates. ISBN: 0-300-11574-1. \$40.00 (paper).—This comprehensive guide has been very popular with birders for its inclusion of many tropical African birds. It was first published in 1997 in the United Kingdom by Christopher Helm, then reprinted with amendments in 1999, and now it has been released again in paperback by Yale University. It is the first field guide to the birds of Gambia and Senegal, and includes other areas of West Africa popular with birders from around the world.

Clive Barlow has lived in the Gambia area since 1985, and has become very familiar with the region's bird fauna. He presently runs birdwatching safaris and is very active with the conservation of Gambian birds through efforts in the Kiang West National Park and Tanji Bird Reserve conservation areas. Tim Wacher, a mammalian ecologist, resided in Gambia for five years, where he assembled a database of bird records from which came most of the distributional information for this book.

This 400-page guide provides full accounts of more than 600 bird species and depicts nearly all of them in the 48 color plates clustered at the forefront of this attractive volume. The end-boards depict maps of both Senegal